

Dé Máirt, 2 Nollaig, 2008
Tuesday, 2nd December, 2008

2.30 p.m.

GNÓ COMHALTAÍ PRÍOBHÁIDEACHA
PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Fógra i dtaobh leasú ar Thairsceint : Notice of Amendment to Motion

51.“That Dáil Éireann:

in view of:

- the challenges facing Irish agriculture and the need to encourage the maximum transfer of farms into the ownership of young, qualified farmers;
- the demographic challenge the current age profile of Irish agriculture presents;
- the Programme for Government commitment to ‘Continue to offer a range of supports to young farmers entering agriculture – including education, taxation measures and direct start-up aid’;
- the commitment in the Rural Development Programme 2007-2013 to the rejuvenation of the Irish farming sector as a continued priority of Irish agricultural policy; and
- the disproportionate impact changes to the Disadvantaged Areas Scheme will have on farmers and their future viability;

condemns:

- the Government’s decision to suspend the Young Farmer’s Installation Aid Scheme, the Early Retirement Scheme and to reduce payments under the Disadvantaged Areas Scheme;

and calls on the Government to:

- immediately restore the Young Farmer’s Installation Aid Scheme;
- immediately restore the Early Retirement Scheme; and
- immediately reverse cutbacks to the Disadvantaged Areas Scheme.” — *Michael Creed, Enda Kenny, Bernard Allen, James Bannon, Seán Barrett, Pat Breen, Richard Bruton, Ulick Burke, Catherine Byrne, Joe Carey, Deirdre Clune, Paul Connaughton, Noel J. Coonan, Simon Coveney, Seymour Crawford, Lucinda Creighton, Michael D’Arcy, John Deasy, Jimmy Deenihan, Andrew Doyle, Bernard J. Durkan, Damien English, Olwyn Enright, Frank Feighan, Charles Flanagan, Terence Flanagan, Brian Hayes, Tom Hayes, Phil Hogan, Paul Kehoe, Pádraic McCormack, Shane McEntee, Dinny McGinley, Joe McHugh, Olivia Mitchell, Denis Naughten, Dan Neville,*

Michael Noonan, Kieran O'Donnell, Fergus O'Dowd, Jim O'Keeffe, John O'Mahony, John Perry, James Reilly, Michael Ring, Alan Shatter, Tom Sheahan, P. J. Sheehan, David Stanton, Billy Timmins, Leo Varadkar.

Leasú:

Amendment:

1. To delete all words after “Dáil Éireann” and substitute the following:

“notes that:

- total expenditure in 2009 by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, including EU funding, in support of the agriculture, fisheries, food and forestry sectors, will be €3.26 billion, in recognition of the role the sector has to play and the enormous contribution it makes to the Irish economy;
- record funding of €355 million is being provided for REPS in 2009, including a seventeen per cent increase in REPS 4 payments;
- the suckler cow scheme represents a new stream of income which will deliver €33 million to Irish farmers this year, €44 million in early 2009 and €173 million over the remaining three years of the scheme and that the full commitment entered into in Partnership to provide funding of €250 million over five years is being honoured in full;
- €220 million will be paid in disadvantaged area scheme payments in 2009, bringing to €2.3 billion the amount paid under this scheme to Irish farmers this decade; and
- the CAP Health Check represents an excellent outcome for Irish farmers that:
 - will deliver €170 million for Irish farmers over the next five years, including €100 million in additional milk production;
 - ensures that the key market management mechanisms, which are very important to Ireland, have been left completely unchanged, including intervention schemes for butter and skimmed milk powder;
 - secures access to previously unused EU funds that will provide over €70 million over four years in additional money that will go directly into the pockets of Irish farmers; and
 - ensures that Irish farmers will not lose one cent as a result of the increase in modulation, which will see €120 million transferred to the rural development programme over four years, and that the single farm payments of over 50,000 Irish farmers will not be affected;

commends:

- the Government’s achievement in securing an increase of the age limit for testing for BSE to 48 months, which will deliver a multi-million euro saving for Irish farmers; and
- the Minister’s decision to apply for brucellosis-free status for Ireland as a recognition of the tremendous efforts made to reduce [and eliminate] the incidence of the disease in recent years;

acknowledges:

- the contribution that the Irish agri-food and drink sector makes to the Irish economy, accounting for 9.7 per cent of exports, worth an estimated €9.2 billion, and 8.2 per cent of total employment and that generated an operating surplus in 2007 of €2.6 billion; and
- the Government’s continuing commitment to, support for and development of this most important indigenous sector.” — *An tAire Talmhaíochta, Iascaigh agus Bia.*